

**Sick Industrial Companies
(Special Provisions) Act, 1985**

*447. SHRIDHARMANAMONDAYYA
SADUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government propose
to amend the Sick Industrial Companies
(Special Provisions) Act, 1985 for amalgam-
ation of sick companies with non - industrial
firms ;

(b) If so, the details thereof ; and

(c) The time by which the amendments
are likely to be enacted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR
SINGH): (a) and (b). Various proposals for
amendments to the Sick Industrial Compa-
nies (Special Provision) Act, 1985, including
an amendment permitting the amalgam-
ation of a sick industrial company and any
other company, are currently under the con-
sideration of Government.

Trade Agreement with Australia

*448. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether any bilateral trade agree-
ment with Australia has been signed re-
cently;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ;

(c) the balance of trade for 1989 -
90, 1990-91 and 1991 -92;

(d) whether the new arrangement with
Australia is likely to result in favorable bal-
ance of trade; and

(e) the items which are exported to

Australia ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.
CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). No, Sir; the
Trade Agreement with Australia was signed
much earlier in 1976. Recently, the second
meeting of the India - Australia Joint Ministe-
rial Commission was held at New Delhi
during February 26-27, 1992 which con-
cluded with the signing of Agreed Minutes
between the two sides.

(c) Balance of Trade has been against
India during these years :-

	<i>Trade Deficit (In Rs. Crs.)</i>	
1989-90	—	552.41
1990-91	—	1142.29

As per trade trends available, the trade
deficit during 1991 - 92 may be in the vicinity
of Rs. 900 Crores.

(d) No new trade arrangement has been
concluded with Australia.

(e) These comprise of cotton textiles,
fabrics, clothing, accessories, engineering
goods, cashew, coffee, tea, leather prod-
ucts, precious and semi-precious stones,
items of handicrafts etc.

**Alleged misuse of Banking Chan-
nels for Tax Evasion**

*449. SHRI MATI BASAVA-
RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE
be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Reserve Bank of India
has taken steps to check the misuse of
banking channels for evasion of taxes;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) The extent to which these steps have
helped in checking this practice; and

(d) The further steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have been issuing instructions to banks from time to time to ensure that banking channels are not misused for evasion of taxes. These instructions *inter-alia*, emphasize the need of proper introduction for opening of bank accounts and require payment of deposits and interest in excess of Rs. 20,000/- by credit to account or by issue of account payee cheques. Instructions also provide that demand drafts, mail transfers, telegraphic transfers and travelers cheques for Rs. 50,000/- and above be issued only by debit to customers account and not against cash payment.

Similarly, payments for Rs. 50,000/- and above are required to be made through banking channels and not in cash.

(c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India have reported that their data reporting system does not facilitate assessment of the impact

of the steps taken to check evasion of taxes. Whenever any instance of misuse of banking channel is brought to their notice, appropriate action is taken by them.

[Translation]

Import of Homeopathic Medicines.

4862. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) The value of the homeopathic medicines imported during the last three years; and

(b) The countries from where the imports were made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The year-wise value of import of Homeopathic medicines and major countries from where the imports were made during the year 1986-87 to 1988-89 is as under :-

Year	Value	Major Importing Countries
(Rs. Lakhs)		
1986-87	247.69	German FREP, Italy, USA.
1987-88	95.90	German FREP, Japan.
1988-89	149.80	German FREP, France, Netherlands, USA.

DATA BEYOND MARCH 89 IS NOT AVAILABLE

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :

(Source : Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India, Vol. II (Imports) Published by DGCI&S, Calcutta.)

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

[English]

Common Civil Code ✓

(a) Whether the common civil code is made applicable to some parts of the country

4863. SHRI SHANKARRAO KALE :

(b) If so, the details thereof ; state wise;